(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas inspection of export consignments of spices is not mandatory, exporters desirous of getting their consignments inspected and certified, for purposes of fulfilling importing countries requirements, may avail the services of recognized Government/ Private agencies.

Policy to check open import

†1495. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units all over the country as per the Economic Survey of 2002-03 and whether the reasons for sickness of these units is to allow the open import;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any policy to check open import; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) It is reported in the Economic Survey 2002-03 that according to information compiled by RBI from scheduled Commercial Banks, as on March, 2001 there were 2,52,947 sick/weak units consisting of 2,49,630 in the SSI Sector and 3,317 units in the non-SSI sector. The Survey has not ascribed removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports as the cause of sickness of these units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consultation on non-agricultural market access negotiations at WTO

1496. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to hold extensive consultations with the industry on the issues relating to ongoing

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.